

# AB 1022 (Oropeza) Red Light Reforms

## PURPOSE

AB 1022 addresses concerns expressed last year in an audit report regarding the integrity of red light cameras and how they ticket violators.

AB 1022 would amend the vehicle code to correct some of the omissions in existing law, which will help restore the integrity of red light cameras as a traffic safety tool.

Specifically, this legislation provides that intersections must be selected based on a traffic safety need.

## SUMMARY

- The current law sets out the general parameters for the use of red light cameras.
- However, this law as currently written – relating to government oversight is vague leaving the program susceptible to public criticism and legal challenges relative to the lack of guidance and controls.
- Further, vendor payments predicated on the number of tickets undermines the public's trust and raises the concern that these systems can be manipulated for profit.
- **Background:**
  - In July 2002, the Bureau of Audits released a report concerning the efficiency of red light camera programs statewide.
  - The report concluded that the cameras have contributed to a reduction of red light running accidents, however, the program falls short in government oversight and
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control, as vendors exercise too much discretion in some jurisdictions.

- Further, the report noted that remedial traffic safety improvements are not always considered before employing the use of cameras and, among other things, confidential records are sometimes mishandled and used for purposes other than intended by the authorizing legislation.

## Q&A

- *See attached sheet*

## SUPPORT

- California State Automobile Association (Sponsor)
  - Anne Drumm, (916) 443-2577
- AAA
  - Paula LaBrie, (916) 443-2577
- Teamsters

## OPPOSITION

- None

## CONTACT

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